

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 SS-15
STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01
/098 W

-----029487 240826Z /10

P 231530Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5004

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN, IV

SUBJECT: MTN NOTIFICATION ON CUSTOMS FORMALITIES AND FEES

REF: (A) STATE 194162 (B) ABIDJAN A-16

1. EMBASSY HAS NO OBJECTION TO NOTIFICATION ON IMPORT INSPECTION PROCEDURES CITED REFTEL. AT SAME TIME, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THIS PROCEDURE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE SIGNIFICANT HINDRANCE TO U.S. EXPORTS TO IVORY COAST. LIKE SIMILAR MEASURES IMPLEMENTED BY OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES (SENEGAL AND ZAIRE HAVE BEEN MENTIONED), THIS PROCEDURE WAS INSTITUTED BY GOIC AS SOLUTION TO GROWING PROBLEM OF OVERPRICING OF EXPORTS TO IVORY COAST. U.S. BUSINESSMEN IN IVORY COAST INDICATE THAT, WHILE INSPECTION REQUIREMENT DOES ENTAIL SOME EXPENSE AND DELAY, IT HAS GENERALLY BEEN IMPLEMENTED FAIRLY, AND THEY HAVE LITTLE EVIDENCE OF IT HAVING BEEN ABUSED.

2. BY CONTRAST, BUSINESSMEN EXPRESS MUCH GREATER CONCERN ABOUT IMPORT LICENSING SYSTEM IMPOSED BY GOIC DECREE 76-281 OF APRIL 20, 1976 (DESCRIBED PAGE 7 OF REF B. DECREE EMPOWERS BUREAU OF FOREIGN TRADE IN THE MINISTERE DU COMMERCE TO ISSUE LICENSES FOR IMPORTS

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OF A LARGE VARIETY OF AGRICULTURAL, INDUSTRIAL, AND CONSUMER PRODUCTS LISTED IN ANNEX A TO THE DECREE (ALSO TO IMPOSE QUOTAS ON EXPORTS OF PRODUCTS LISTED IN ANNEX B). LICENSES ARE ISSUED ON THE BASIS OF A SYSTEM OF QUOTAS SET FOR EACH PRODUCT. PROSPECTIVE IMPORTERS ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER WITH THE MINISTRY AS SUCH, AT WHICH TIME THEY ARE ALLOCATED SOME PORTION OF THE QUOTAS FOR THE PRODUCTS WHICH THEY HAVE INDICATED THEY WISH TO IMPORT.

3. THE CRITERION FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF QUOTAS IS "THE NATIONAL INTEREST AND THE IMPERATIVES OF PROTECTING THE NATION ECONOMY." IN PRACTICE THEREFORE, THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN TRADE ENJOYS GREAT FLEXIBILITY IN CONSULTING WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND WITH IMPORTERS IN DETERMINING THE LEVEL OF QUOTAS. OVERALL QUOTAS FOR INDIVIDUAL PRODUCTS HAVE NOT BEEN PUBLISHED, BUT ARE SUPPOSED TO BE MADE AVAILABLE IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES. QUOTAS FOR INDIVIDUAL IMPORTERS ARE NOT MADE AVAILABLE PUBLICLY.

4. COMMENT: SOME BUSINESSMEN HAVE COMPLAINED THAT ADMINISTRATION OF QUOTAS HAS IN A FEW CASES BEEN ARBITRARY AND DISCRIMINATORY. EMBASSY NOTES THAT NEWNESS OF REGULATORY PROGRAM AND ITS CONSEQUENT LACK OF SYSTEMATIZATION MAY HAVE BEEN AT ROOT OF SOME PROBLEMS. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS CLEAR THAT A VAGUE CRITERIA FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF QUOTAS COUPLED WITH SECRETIVENESS OF THAT SYSTEM RENDER IT EXTREMELY VULNERABLE TO ACCUSATIONS OF PARTIALITY AND OTHER, MORE SERIOUS, ABUSES. USG MAY THEREFORE WISH TO CONSIDER RAISING THIS REGULATION AS ITEM FOR DISCUSSION WITH GOIC IN MTN. COPY OF DECREE, ITS ANNEXES, AND EXPLANATORY AVIS AUX IMPORTATEURS NO. 76-003 BEING POUCHED TO: PHILIP MICHELINI, OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL MARKETING, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.
COOKE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CUSTOMS DUTIES, FEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ABIDJA08357
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770305-0589
Format: TEL
From: ABIDJAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770835/aaaabdgo.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e80b6956-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 194162, 77 ABIDJAN A-16
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1522770
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MTN NOTIFICATION ON CUSTOMS FORMALITIES AND FEES
TAGS: ETRD, IV, MTN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e80b6956-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009